

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150560
ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 150560

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:AF

SUBJECT:DEPARTURE NOTE

1. AS YOU DEPART KABUL, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW HIGHLY WE IN NEA VALUED YOUR PERIOD OF SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN. THE SUPERB AND PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE OF YOUR ENTIRE MISSION DURING THE RECENT COUP AND POST-COUP PERIOD EXEMPLIFIED THE HIGH QUALITY PERFORMANCE WHICH HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF THE U.S. MISSION OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. WE HAVE ALL PROFITED FROM AND WILL MISS YOUR EXPERTISE, BROAD-GAUGED OUTLOOK, FRANKNESS AND WISE COUNSEL.

2. ALTHOUGH SOME UNCERTAINTY IN U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS HAS ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT COUP, WE CAN'T HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT YOUR PRAGMATIC, REALISTIC YET SYMPATHETIC DIPLOMACY HAS MADE AN INDELIBLE IMPRESSION ON MANY AFGHANS, WHO WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK TO THE U.S. FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING AS THEY STRIVE TO MOLD THEIR
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NATIONAL IDENTITY AND DESTINY. YOUR SOLID EFFORTS AND LEADERSHIP IN EXPANDING U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS HAVE SET A HIGH STANDARD, INDEED, FOR YOUR SUCCESSOR.

3. ALL OF US SEND OUR CONGRATUALTIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE AND WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN DISCHARGING THE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES THAT LIE AHEAD.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RETURN AND TO WORKING WITH
YOU HERE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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